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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7896

BILL NUMBER: SB 523

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 20, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Feb 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Police and Fire Pensions

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Server

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows certain members of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund to purchase at full actuarial cost additional service credit needed for the member to retire with a full unreduced benefit. It permits the member's employer to adopt an ordinance to pay all or part of the member's contributions required for the purchase of the service.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This proposal permits a member of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund who (1) first became a member of the Fund after December 31, 1983, and before October 1, 1996; (2) was at least 36 years old at the time the member joined the Fund; and (3) will not accrue 20 years of service prior to reaching the mandatory retirement age established by the member's employer, to purchase service credit. As drafted, this proposal affects very few members.

The amount of service that may be purchased under this proposal only is that amount sufficient such that the member would, with continued active service, be able to accrue exactly 20 years of service at the time the member reaches the mandatory retirement age established by the member's employer.

The cost of the service credit would be borne by the member, or by the member's employer if the member's employer adopts an ordinance to pay all or part of the member's contributions required for the purchase of the service. The cost would be at full actuarial cost or computed to result in a contribution that approximates

the actuarial present value of the benefit attributable to the service credit purchased. Since the service credit would be purchased at full actuarial cost, the fiscal impact on the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund is expected to be small.

A couple of circumstances under which a member of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund may wish to purchase service credit and the potential impact to the funds are identified below.

(1) If a member wanted to purchase service credit, the actuary for the fund calculates the cost of that service based on the current salary, current service earned, and the member's current age. This cost represents the full actuarial cost of the service at the time of the purchase (excepting any future cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) that may be awarded). In other words, if a member purchases the service credit on one day and then retires with benefits commencing the next day, there would be no immediate fiscal impact to the Fund. There also would be no immediate real gain to the member because the additional benefits received due to the service would be actuarially equivalent to the purchase price of the service. This changes, however, once a COLA has been awarded. Since COLAs were not included in the purchase price, such a COLA would represent a real gain to the member and a fiscal impact to the Fund.

(2) If the member purchases service credit and continues employment, the member may also be able to benefit from the earlier purchase of service credit for a second reason. As the member continues employment, the member can expect increases in salary. These salary increases will increase the benefit the member can expect to receive at retirement. However, the purchase price of the service was based on the member's salary **at the time of purchase** before any increases in salary. Any increase in the value of the member's benefit because of salary increases was not included in the purchase price, therefore representing a real gain to the member and an impact to the fund.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Public Employees' Retirement Fund as administrators of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund.

Local Agencies Affected: Those units with members who qualify under the conditions set forth in the proposal.

It is not likely that there would be very many such members.

Information Sources: Doug Todd of McCready & Keane, Inc., actuaries for PERF, 576-1508.

Fiscal Analyst: Jim Sperlik, 317-232-9866.

DEFINITIONS

Actuarial Equivalent: If the present value of two series of payments is equal, taking into account a given interest rate and mortality according to a given table, the two services are said to be actuarially equivalent. For example, under a given set of actuarial assumptions, a lifetime mortality benefit of \$67.60 beginning at age 60 can be said to be the actuarial equivalent of \$100 a month beginning at age 65. The actual benefit amounts are different but the present value of the two benefits, considering mortality and interest, is the same.

Consumer Price Index: The consumer price index is the name given in both the United States and Canada to the series of numbers whose ratios measure the relative prices at various times of a selected group of goods and services which typify those bought by urban families.

Cost of Living Adjustment: An across-the-board increase (or decrease) in wages or pension benefits according to the rise (or fall) in the cost of living as measured by some index, often the Consumer Price Index (CPI).